

REMARKS

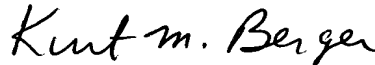
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending. The specification has been amended to clarify that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/386,295, filed August 31, 1999.

Accordingly, an examination of Claims 1-16 is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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